

Handout: Artist Research/Analysis

If you follow the order and aspects given on this sheet you will have comprehensively analysed a drawing or painting.

Note that not all the aspects are suitable to comment on for every drawing or painting. Select the aspects that seem most appropriate.

Record details (you must always state artist, title and date)

Name of Artwork: (e.g. Monet)

Title of the Work: (e.g. Rouen Cathedral in Full Sunlight)

Date it was created: (e.g. 1874)

Size : (e.g. 84 x 63 cm)

Medium : (e.g. oil on canvas)

Stylistic Period: (e.g. Impressionism)

Subject and Theme

Describe the subject: (e.g. the artist Courbet meets his patron Monsieur Bruyas)

and/or Describe the content: (e.g. the stone facade of a Gothic Cathedral)

and/or Explain any ideas that the artwork is expressing (political, social, personal) : (e.g. Courbet depicts himself as of equal status to his wealthy patron)

Identify underlying themes: (e.g. self-sacrifice, loyalty to nation)

Explain background (from research): (e.g. the format derives from a popular print called The Wandering Jew)

Composition (means the organisation of objects and/or figures within the painting) - *select only the most relevant of these:*

Focal Point:

Geometrical shapes:

Symmetry?/Asymmetry?:

Methods used to lead the eye around the work:

Effects created by compositional devices: (e.g. stability, order, randomness, drawing attention to particular parts of the work)

Space/Depth (how is the illusion of depth created?)

Linear perspective: (e.g. Pissarro uses a row of trees which recede and lead the eye into the distance. The trees vanish at a point on the horizon)

Aerial perspective: (the gradual lightening, haziness and bluish tinge that appears towards the horizon)

Overlapping of objects:

Distance from the picture plane : (sense of distance from the actual surface of the painting)

Colour Main Colours used :

Cool and Warm Colours:

Effects colour creates:

Range of the palette : (means the number of colours used - a wide range or a limited palette)

Light

Direction of the Light :

Atmospheric Light (to create mood):

Chiaroscuro (contrasts of light and shadow) or Even Lighting :

Form and Effects

Use of outline to define form:

Use of tonal modelling to create 3-d forms:

Static or moving forms:

Technique

Smooth finish or Thickly applied paint (impasto):

Effects: (e.g. implies texture of objects and garments such as marble, satin, creates energetic effects)

Context (known through research and knowledge of style)

Social/Historical:

Geographical/Cultural:

Ideological:

Artistic: Fits the artists' personal style:

Fits the style of the art period:

Subject and/or style are dependent on the commission: